

Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method of benchmarking product samples provided to a purchasing entity by multiple independent suppliers, comprising:
collecting multiple sets of performance parameter values corresponding to results of testing each of the product samples at test facilities of each of the suppliers; and
generating an evaluation report based upon the multiple sets of performance parameter values.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the collecting multiple sets of performance parameter values comprises testing each of the product samples at the test facilities of each of the suppliers.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the testing of product samples is controlled by comprises the purchasing entity controlling the product samples during the testing at the test facilities of each of the suppliers.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the testing comprises the purchasing entity prevents-preventing unauthorized access to the product samples during the testing at the test facilities of each of the suppliers.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method of claim 3, wherein the testing comprises the purchasing entity maintains-maintaining custody of the product samples during the testing at the test facilities of each of the suppliers.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, further comprising removing identification information from the product samples before the testing at the test facilities of each of the suppliers.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method of claim 6, wherein the removing identification information comprises removing from each of the products any information from which the ~~product~~ corresponding supplier of the product is identifiable.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the testing comprises testing each of the product samples ~~are tested at~~ the test facilities of each of the suppliers under substantially similar test conditions.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising analyzing the multiple sets of performance parameters.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of claim 8~~1~~, further comprising compiling a single consistent set of performance parameter values from the multiple sets of performance parameter values.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the evaluation report to one or more of the suppliers.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, further comprising collecting a fee from a given one of the suppliers before transmitting the evaluation report to the given supplier.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, further comprising customizing the evaluation report so that a respective one of the suppliers receiving the evaluation report is able to benchmark performance of ~~its~~ one or more of the product samples it supplied to the purchasing entity against other ones of the product samples supplied by other ones of the suppliers without identifying the other ones of the suppliers.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the ~~evaluation report is customized by~~ customizing comprises encoding identification information of all the

suppliers other than the ~~receiving~~respective supplier receiving the customized evaluation report.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the generating the evaluation report comprises compiling a data structure relating corresponding ones of the performance parameter values and respective ones of the supplier test facilities for each of the product samples.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 15, wherein the generating the evaluation report comprises producing a graph displaying one or more performance parameter values for each of the product samples.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer program for benchmarking product samples provided to a purchasing entity by multiple independent suppliers, the computer program residing on a computer-readable medium and comprising computer-readable instructions for causing a computer to:

collect multiple sets of performance parameter values corresponding to results of testing each of the product samples at test facilities of each of the suppliers; and

generate ~~an evaluation report~~ based upon the multiple sets of performance parameter values an evaluation report comprising a data structure relating corresponding ones of the performance parameter values and respective ones of the test facilities for each of the product samples.

Claim 18 (original): The computer program of claim 17, further comprising computer-readable instructions for analyzing the multiple sets of performance parameters.

Claim 19 (original): The computer program of claim 18, further comprising computer-readable instructions for compiling a single consistent set of performance parameter values from the multiple sets of performance parameter values.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer program of claim 17, further comprising computer-readable instructions for customizing the evaluation report so that a

Applicant : Noel K. Hancock et al.
Serial No. : 09/973,430
Filed : Oct. 9, 2001
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Attorney's Docket No.: 10017267-1
Amendment dated March 4, 2006
Reply to Office action dated Dec. 9, 2005

respective one of the suppliers receiving the evaluation report is able to benchmark performance of ~~its~~ one or more of the product samples it supplied to the purchasing entity against other ones of the product samples supplied by other ones of the suppliers without identifying the other ones of the suppliers.